

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A portable terminal device, comprising:
 - a network connection unit configured to establish a
 - 5 connection to a computer network;
 - a local network connection unit configured to
 - establish a connection to a local network different from
 - the computer network, the local network being a network
 - locally defined among the portable terminal device and at
 - 10 least one other computer device; and
 - a processing unit configured to obtain a prescribed
 - information regarding the computer network that is
 - necessary or utilizable in operating an application program
 - to be operated on the portable terminal device by being
 - 15 connected to the computer network, from said at least one
 - other computer device connected to the portable terminal
 - device via the local network through the local network
 - connection unit, carry out a prescribed processing for the
 - application program according to at least a part of the
 - 20 prescribed information, and execute the application program
 - by using a result of the prescribed processing and being
 - connected to the computer network through the network
 - connection unit.
 - 25 2. The portable terminal device of claim 1, wherein the
 - processing unit carries out the prescribed processing to
 - make a prescribed setup regarding the computer network.
 3. The portable terminal device of claim 2, wherein the
 - 30 processing unit makes the prescribed setup by storing said
 - at least a part of the prescribed information into a
 - prescribed memory region for the application program,
 - either as obtained from said at least one other computer
 - device or by converting said at least a part of the
 - 35 prescribed information into a format matching with the

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application program and/or a user interface of the portable terminal device.

4. The portable terminal device of claim 1, wherein the processing unit obtains the prescribed information related to a specified type of application program that exists in said at least one other computer device.

5. The portable terminal device of claim 4, wherein the processing unit obtains the prescribed information by transmitting to said at least one other computer device via the local network a first request for obtaining an identification information for identifying said specified type of application program, receiving a reply containing the identification information from said at least one other computer device via the local network in response to the first request, transmitting to said at least one other computer device via the local network a second request for obtaining the prescribed information according to the identification information contained in the reply, and receiving the prescribed information from said at least one other computer device via the local network in response to the second request.

6. The portable terminal device of claim 1, wherein the local network enables data exchanges between the portable terminal device and said at least one other computer device by using a wireless LAN (Local Area Network), a point-to-point wireless device, or an infrared as a medium.

7. The portable terminal device of claim 1, wherein the processing unit carries out data exchanges on the local network only with a computer device that is authenticated by a prescribed mutual authentication procedure.

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8. The portable terminal device of claim 1, wherein the processing unit carries out a procedure for obtaining the prescribed information for each one of a plurality of application programs installed on the portable terminal device, at a timing of activation of the portable terminal device.

9. The portable terminal device of claim 1, wherein the processing unit carries out a procedure for obtaining the prescribed information for the application program at a timing of activation of the application program.

10. The portable terminal device of claim 1, wherein the processing unit carries out a procedure for transferring the prescribed information obtained from a first computer device via the local network to a second computer connected to the local network.

11. The portable terminal device of claim 1, wherein the processing unit carries out a procedure for transferring the prescribed information obtained via the local network to one or a plurality of computer devices connected to the local network.

12. The portable terminal device of claim 1, wherein the network connection unit carries out communications via the computer network through a radio base station.

13. The portable terminal device of claim 1, wherein the prescribed information is setup data or input data for the application program.

14. The portable terminal device of claim 13, further comprising a user interface for enabling user input into the portable terminal device;

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wherein the processing unit carries out the prescribed processing to enter the setup data or the input data into the portable terminal device in a form utilizable by the application program, without using the user interface.

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15. A computer device, comprising:

a local network connection unit configured to establish a connection to a local network that is locally defined among the computer device and a portable terminal device; and

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a processing unit configured to return a reply containing an identification information for identifying a specified type of application program that exists in the computer device, or a prescribed information related to said specified type of application program, in response to a request received from the portable terminal device via the local network through the local network connection unit.

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16. The computer device of claim 13, wherein the processing unit receives from the portable terminal device via the local network a first request for obtaining the identification information, transmits a first reply containing the identification information to the portable terminal device via the local network in response to the first request, receives from the portable terminal device via the local network a second request for obtaining the prescribed information, and transmits a second reply containing the prescribed information to the portable terminal device via the local network in response to the second request.

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17. A communication method of a portable terminal device having a function for executing application programs and a function for establishing a connection to a computer

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network;

establishing a connection to a local network different from the computer network, the local network being a network locally defined among the portable terminal device

5 and at least one other computer device; and

obtaining a prescribed information regarding the computer network that is necessary or utilizable in operating an application program to be operated on the portable terminal device by being connected to the computer
10 network, from said at least one other computer device connected to the portable terminal device via the local network, and carrying out a prescribed processing for the application program according to at least a part of the prescribed information.

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18. A communication method of a computer device, comprising:

establishing a connection to a local network that is locally defined among the computer device and a portable
20 terminal device; and

returning a reply containing an identification information for identifying a specified type of application program that exists in the computer device, or a prescribed information related to said specified type of application
25 program, in response to a request received from the portable terminal device via the local network.

19. A computer usable medium having computer readable program codes embodied therein for causing a computer to
30 function as a portable terminal device, the computer readable program codes include:

a first computer readable program code for causing said computer to establish a connection to a computer network;

35 a second computer readable program code for causing

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said computer to establish a connection to a local network different from the computer network, the local network being a network locally defined among the portable terminal device and at least one other computer device; and

5 a third computer readable program code for causing said computer to obtain a prescribed information regarding the computer network that is necessary or utilizable in operating an application program to be operated on the portable terminal device by being connected to the computer
10 network, from said at least one other computer device connected to the portable terminal device via the local network, carry out a prescribed processing for the application program according to at least a part of the prescribed information, and execute the application program
15 by using a result of the prescribed processing and being connected to the computer network.

20. A computer usable medium having computer readable program codes embodied therein for causing a computer to
20 function as a computer device, the computer readable program codes include:

a first computer readable program code for causing said computer to establish a connection to a local network that is locally defined among the computer device and a
25 portable terminal device; and

a second computer readable program code for causing said computer to return a reply containing an identification information for identifying a specified type of application program that exists in the computer device,
30 or a prescribed information related to said specified type of application program, in response to a request received from the portable terminal device via the local network.

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